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Assembly California Legislature



JOHN J. BENOIT
ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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February 8, 2007

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-I
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Support of DWR and SWRCB Additional Funding Request

Dear Mr. Snow:

I write this letter in strong support of the Santa Ana Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and the priority projects for the region included in its Proposition 50, Chapter 8 grant application.

The California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board met January 23 and January 30 in Northern and Southern California to present their recommendation in favor of this additional project funding. Their conclusions reflect the need for development of the Santa Ana Watershed Project beyond any other region in the state. The rapidly growing population continues to strain critical water infrastructure that is inadequate in serving the immense water demand.

By the use of the integrated regional management approach spearheaded originally by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), multiple benefits to water supply, water quality improvement and environmental restoration will be implemented. The projects included in the SAWPA grant application will help assure water reliability and drought protection for the future.

These proposed actions would effectively leverage local funds that are available to implement the projects now, and recognize the significant effort and expense associated with preparing grant applications through the two-step process while addressing north-south funding split concerns. I believe the recommendations for the first round funding are in the best interests of the State, and I urge those involved to implement the proposal in order to move these vital projects forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you need any information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Benoit".

JOHN J. BENOIT
Assemblymember, 64th District